

Message Text

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ACTION EA-13

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 SS-15 NSC-10 NSCE-00 DODE-00 CIAE-00

L-02 INR-10 DPW-01 RSR-01 RSC-01 /054 W

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R 040620 Z JUL 73

FM AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4811

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY SAIGON

CDR JCRC NKP

USDEL JEC PARIS

S E C R E T VIENTIANE 4775

LIMDIS

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MOPS, LA

SUBJECT: JCRC ACCESS TO LAOS

REF: STATE 123408

1. ON JULY 3, I CALLED ON SENIOR LPF NEGOTIATOR PHOUMI VONGVICHIT TO PURSUE JCRC ACCESS QUESTION AS SUGGESTED REFTEL. OTHER ASPECTS OF MEETING REPORTED SEPTTEL.
2. AT OUTSET OF MEETING, I PRESENTED TO PHOUMI, UNDER COVER OF TRANSMITTAL LETTER, TWO FOLDERD WITH LISTS REFLECTING

NAMES, RANKS, DATES, CIRCUMSTANCES AND LAST KNOWN MAP LOCATIONS OF ALL U. S. MILITARY AND CIVILIANS CURRENTLY CLASSIFIED AS MIA OR KIA/ BNR IN LAOS. THESE LISTS, PREPARED BY JCRC WERE THE LAOS EXTRACTS (SAME FORMAT) OF THE TOTAL INDOCHINA LISTS APPROVED FOR PRESENTATION BY USDEL FPJMT

SGN TO DRV DEL FPJMT IN MAY 73. FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF MY LETTER TO PHOUMI:

BEGIN TEXT: QUOTE: THIS ETTER TRANSMIT TO YOU, AS THE SPECIAL PLENIPOTENTIARY REPRESENTATIVE OF THE PATRIOTIC
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FORCES, DOCUMENTS LISTING THOSE U. S. MILITARY AND CIVILIAN PERSONNEL WHO ARE MISSING OR WHO WERE KILLED IN ACTION (BUT UNRECOVERED) IN LAOS.

QUOTE. ONE DOCUMENT INCLUDES THE NAME, MILITARY RANK, DATE, CIRCUMSTANCE, AND LAST- KNOWN OR SUSPECTED MAP LOCATION OF PERSONNEL WHO ARE CURRENTLY CLASSIFIED AS MISSING IN ACTION IN LAOS.

QUOTE. THE SECOND DOCUMENT INCLUDES THE SAME INFORMATION IN RELATION TO THOSE PERSONNEL WHO ARE KNOWN TO HAVE BEEN KILLED IN LAOS, BUT WHOSE REMAINS HAVE NOT BEEN

RECOVERED.

QUOTE. IT IS HOPED THAT THESE DOCUMENTS WILL ASSIST THE PATRIOTIC FORCES IN SHEDDING SOME LIGHT ON THE FATE OF THE U. S. MILITARY AND CIVILIAN PERSONNEL WHO HERETOFORE HAVE NOT BEEN ACCOUNTED FOR, EITHER AS LIVE PRISONERS OF WAR OR AS PERSONNEL WHO ARE KNOWN TO HAVE DIED IN CAPTIVITY. UNQUOTE. END TEXT.

3. PHOUMI LOOKED CAREFULLY AT THE INFORMATION SET FORTH IN TWO FOLDERS, ASKED ME QUESTIONS ABOUT FORMAT, AND EXPRESSED GRATITUDE FOR FACT THAT KEY TO LISTING OF MIA' S WAS IN FRENCH, WHICH HE SAID WOULD FACILITATE WORK OF HIS PEOPLE IN SAM NEUA. PHOUMI SAID HE WOULD TRANSMIT FOLDERS TO PRINCE SOUPHANOUVONG AND THAT DATA SHOULD HELP LPF TO PROVIDE INFORMATION ON AMERICAN MIA' S " IN LINE WITH RLG-LPF PROTOCOL PRESENTLY UNDER NEGOTIATION."

4. RE JCRC VISIT TO U. S. CRASH SITES IN AREAS UNDER LPF CONTROL IN LAOS, PHOUMI SAID THAT DATA WHICH I HAD JUST GIVEN HIM WILL BE HELPFUL IN DETERMINING LOCATION OF CRASH SITES, BUT THAT NOTHING COULD BE UNDERTAKEN UNTIL " AFTER PEACE HAS BEEN RE- ESTABLISHED IN LAOS." HE SAID HE WOULD MENTION MY DEMARCHE RE JCRC ACCESS TO LAOS CRASH SITES TO SAM NEUA BUT HE PERSONALLY CONSIDERED DISCUSSION OF THIS SUBJECT PREMATURE. HE STRESSED THAT FIRST ORDER OF PRIORITY FOR LPF REMAINS COMPLETION OF NEGOTIATIONS ON PROTOCOL IMPLEMENTING FEBRUARY VIENTIANE AGREEMENT. BOTH
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FEBRUARY AGREEMENT AND PROTOCOL UNDER NEGOTIATION PROVIDE FOR EXCHANGING INFORMATION ON MIA' S AND TOWARD THAT END PHOUMI CONSIDERED LISTINGS I GAVE HIM HELPFUL. VISITS BY AMERICAN MILITARY TO CRASH SITES IN LAOS CAN, IN PHOUMI' S THINKING, ONLY BE CONSIDERED AFTER RPT AFTER INFORMATION HAS BEEN EXCHANGED ON MIA' S

5. COMMENT: AS REPORTED SEPTEL, ATMOSPHERE OF JULY 3 MEETING WAS CORDIAL AND MORE OPEN THAN AT ANY PREVIOUS MEETING I HAD WITH LPF NEGOTIATOR. PERHAPS FACT THAT PHOUMI AND I WERE BOTH UNACCOMPANIED CONTRIBUTED TO THIS CLIMATE. I CAME AWAY FROM MEETING WITH IMPRESSION THAT LPF DEFINITELY WILL GIVE US INFORMATION ON MIA'S AFTER COALITION GOVERNMENT HAS BEEN FORMED. IT WILL PROBABLY TAKE LONGER TO GET THAT INFORMATION FROM LPF THAN WE WOULD LIKE, BUT THINGS DO NOT MOVE FAST IN LAOS. ALSO, I EXPECT LPF TO HAVE INFORMATION ONLY ON A SMALL PERCENTAGE OF THOSE MISSING OVER LAOS. AS FOR VISIT OF U. S. MILITARY TO CRASHAITES IN LAOS, THIS IS NEW IDEA FOR LPF AND I EXPECT THEIR ULTIMATE REACTION WILL DEPEND IN PART ON HOW THEY PERCEIVE U. S. TO BE LIVING UP TO PROVISIONS OF LAOS SETTLEMENT PRESENTLY UNDER NEGOTIATIONS.
DEAN

NOTE BY OC/ T: LIMDIS CAPTION ADDED PER S/ S- O, MR. SARROS, 7/4/73.

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*** Current Handling Restrictions *** LIMDIS

*** Current Classification *** SECRET

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 04 JUL 1973
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: thigpegh
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973VIENTI04775
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: n/a
Film Number: n/a
From: VIENTIANE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19730766/aaaajzfk.tel
Line Count: 137
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: LIMDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: LIMDIS
Reference: 73 STATE 123408
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: thigpegh
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 20 AUG 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <20-Aug-2001 by smithrj>; APPROVED <18-Oct-2001 by thigpegh>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: <DBA CORRECTED> srp 980312
Subject: JCRC ACCESS TO LAOS
TAGS: MOPS, LA
To: STATE INFO BANGKOK
CDR JCRC NKP
JEC PARIS
SAIGON
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005